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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 PA-01
SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 /061 W
----------087175 031913Z /46
O R 031703Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7278
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MC BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 05948

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL MILI MNUC PARM GW OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD)
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AGENDA FOR SECRETARY BROWN'S MEETING
WITH MINISTER APEL

REF: BONN 5884 DTG 312036Z MAR 78

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY SUGGESTS THAT THERE BE AN AGREED AGENDA FOR THE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER APEL ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 13. THE MINISTRY HAS GIVEN US A TENTATIVE AGENDA PREPARED AT STAFF LEVEL, WHICH IT CONCERNS IS TOO LONG. THE GERMANS WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO THE LIST AND ITS OWN SUGGESTIONS FOR AN AGENDA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS CABLE REPORTS THE DEFENSE MINISTRY MAXIMUM LIST OF POSSIBLE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AND ALSO PROVIDES THE EMBASSY SUGGESTION FOR A CONDENSED AND SLIGTLY REVISED AGENDA. ACTION
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REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO RETURN TO THE GERMANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT THE AGENDA. END SUMMARY.

1. DEFENSE MINISTER APEL'S CIVILIAN AIDE (DR. RUDLOFF) HAS SUGGESTED TO THE EMBASSY THAT THERE BE AN AGREED AGENDA FOR THE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY

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BROWN AND MINISTER APEL AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 13. HE SAID HE REALIZED THAT SOME FLEXIBILITY WAS REQUIRED AND THAT, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, EACH SIDE HAD THE RIGHT TO RAISE ANY SUBJECT. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT UNLESS THE TWO SIDES WERE IN FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT ON AN AGENDA, PREPARATIONS FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT BE SHARPLY FOCUSED AND THAT THE QUALITY OF THE DISCUSSIONS MIGHT SUFFER AS A RESULT. HE FELT THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, THERE SHOULD BE AN INFORMAL US-FRG UNDERSTANDING AS TO THE MAIN AGENDA AGENDA ITEMS AND THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WILL BE ADDRESSED.

2. RUDLOFF THEN PRESENTED THE EMBASSY WITH WHAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WOULD CONSIDER THE MAXIMUM LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION. THIS LIST FOLLOWS (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION):

-- NATO SUMMIT, MAY 30-31 IN WASHINGTON.
-- NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.
-- NUCLEAR-STRATEGIC POWER BALANCE BETWEEN THE USA AND THE SOVIET UNION.
-- NPG - TNF MODERNIZATION.
-- STATUS OF THE SALT TALKS.
-- GRAY AREA
-- SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON IN SECURITY

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AND ARMS CONTROL TERMS.
-- STATUS OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.
-- FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT.
-- PROBLEMS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE.
-- CO-PRODUCTION PLANS.
-- AWACS.
-- BATTLE TANK, ROLAND, GEPARD, S162, ALPHA JET, AIM 9L, WHEELED VEHICLES.
-- HOST NATION SUPPORT.
-- POMCUS
-- TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR THE US ARMY IN GERMANY (EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS REFERS TO THE COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS WHICH US FORCES HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERING WITH THE GERMAN BUNDESPOST.)
-- GERMAN-AMERICAN ARMY STAFF TALKS.
-- COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND US ARMIES IN EUROPE.

3. THE ABOVE LIST WAS PREPARED AT STAFF LEVEL, AND BOTH RUDLOFF AND GENERAL ALTENBURG, HEAD OF THE DEFENSE

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MINISTRY OFFICE OF POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS, WITH
WHOM WE CONFERRED SEPARATELY, AGREED THAT IT IS TOO
LONG. RUDLOFF HAS REQUESTED US REACTIONS TO THE LIST
AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE
MINISTRY AND THEEMBASSY THEN PREPARE A REVISED AGENDA FOR
THE APRIL 13 DISCUSSIONS.

4. RUDLOFF ALSO ASKED US WHETHER WE FELT THE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING SHOULD BE JOINTLY PREPARED BY
THE US AND GERMAN SIDES. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD
IDEA AND SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING, IN EFFECT, THAT THEY
BE JOINTLY AGREED MINUTES. WE TOLD RUDLOFF WE WOULD
ASK FOR WASHINGTON'S VIEWS ON THIS POINT. WE SAID WE
ASSUMED THAT, IN ANY EVENT, EACH SIDE WOULD TAKE ITS
OWN NOTES.

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5. COMMENT: BY SEPTEL WE ARE SENDING EMBASSY VIEWS ON MAJOR ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE DISCUSSED ALONG WITH OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR APPROACHES SECRETARY BROWN MIGHT WISH TO TAKE. ASSUMING THAT WASHINGTON ACCEPTS THE GERMAN PROPOSAL OF A FORMAL AGENDA, AND IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE AGREEMENT ON THE MATTER WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, THE EMBASSY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING DRAFT AGENDA FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION:

A. THE GENERAL STRATEGIC SITUATION

(1) EXPLANATION BY SECRETARY BROWN OF CURRENT UNITED STATES STRATEGIC THINKING.

(2) COMMENTS BY MINISTER APEL ON GERMAN PERCEPTIONS REGARDING THE STRATEGIC BALANCE AND THE EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP.

B. ARMS CONTROL QUESTIONS:

(1) SALT

(2) GRAY AREA

(3) MBFR

C. NATO PLANNING

(1) AWACS

(2) NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM

(3) TNF MODERNIZATION

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D. TWO-WAY STREET AND CO-PRODUCTION

(1) TANK GUN

(2) GEPARD

(3) ROLAND, S162, ALPHA JET, AIM 9L

(4) TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE

E. HOST NATION SUPPORT AND POMCUS

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F. PROBLEMS BETWEEN US FORCES AND THE BUNDESOPOST

G. THE NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON.

H. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

6. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE ABOVE LIST TOO LONG, SINCE PRESUMABLY NOT EVERY ITEM WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH. RUDLOFF NOTED THAT THE GERMAN PREFERENCES WOULD BE TO DISCUSS MAJOR CONCEPTS AND NOT GO INTO TOO MUCH DETAIL. IN OUR VIEW THE GERMANS WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ITEMS A, B AND D. WE ASSUME THE US SIDE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE REMAINDER OF THE LIST, ESPECIALLY AWACS.

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7. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER THE CONCEPT OF AN AGREED AGENDA IS ACCEPTABLE AND, IF SO, PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO NEGOTIATE AN AGENDA WITH THE FRG ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 5 AS MODIFIED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WASHINGTON'S PREFERENCES;

B. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WASHINGTON ACCEPTS THE CONCEPT OF AGREED MINUTES (IN THIS EVENT THERE WOULD BE A DRAFTING SESSION, INVOLVING WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE TWO SIDES, AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 13).
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